



WASHOE COUNTY

"Dedicated To Excellence in Public Service"

www.co.washoe.nv.us

CM/ACM JS
Finance MM
DA _____
Risk Mgt. DE
HR _____
Grant Mgt. GE

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 27, 2015

DATE: December 31, 2014
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Mary Herzik, District Court Family Services Manager
(775) 328-3299, mary.herzik@washoecourts.us
THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, District Court Administrator/Clerk of Court
(775) 328-3119, Jackie.Bryant@washoecourts.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to retroactively acknowledge the grant award in the amount of \$35,000 [No County Match Required], effective September 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation to the Second Judicial District Court for "Expansion of Dependency Mediation in Child Welfare Cases" and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments [All Commission Districts].

SUMMARY

The proposed Board action is to retroactively acknowledge the grant award of \$35,000 [No County Match Required] effective September 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation to the Second Judicial District Court for "Expansion of Dependency Mediation in Child Welfare Cases" and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments. The grant is being accepted retroactively as funding accompanied receipt of the grant award. The expansion of mediation will increase opportunities for mediating child protection disputes and provide an alternative to traditional case processing.

The County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Improve Public Safety, Security and Health.

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous Board action.

BACKGROUND

The Lee F. Del Grande Foundation has awarded the Second Judicial District Court a grant in the amount of \$35,000 to expand the use of mediation in child protection matters in the Second Judicial District Court, Family Division. The goal of dependency mediation is to offer an alternative to traditional litigation as a way of resolving case disputes. Widely regarded as a best practice, the use of mediation in dependency cases

AGENDA ITEM # 531

promotes collaboration, problem-solving and identification of common interests with the assistance of a neutral third party (mediator). Instead of a contested hearing, mediation is used to facilitate a discussion where parties voluntarily address the issues that brought a family into the child protection system and seek consensus as to how to resolve the issues.

Because interested parties are at the table, resolution can be quite common and this can result in faster case progression and ultimately may result in shorter times to permanency for children and families. Creating additional opportunities for mediation of child protection issues also assists in reducing congested court dockets.

The Dependency Mediation Program started as a pilot project in 2011 with funding from the Nevada Court Improvement Program (CIP). It has been a centerpiece of the Model Court Project in the Second Judicial District Court, which seeks to improve court and administrative practices in the handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

A satisfaction survey of the Dependency Mediation Program in 2012 by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges found both parents and stakeholders felt mediation was successful. Stakeholders reported that mediation reduced their workload in preparation and hearings. Parents agreed they felt heard, respected and treated fairly in mediation. A follow up NCJFCJ evaluation in 2013 found mediated cases were more likely to result in family reunification, and fathers who participated in mediation were more likely to be present at subsequent court hearings.

The grant will allow an additional 70 dependency mediations to be provided over the grant period.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Lee F. Del Grande Dependency Mediation

Scope of the Project: The Second Judicial District Court will continue with the expansion of mediation in child welfare cases providing an efficient and cost-effective means of moving children into permanency.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Safe, Secure and Healthy Community.

On-Going Program Support: N/A

Award Amount: \$35,000

Grant Period: September 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015

Funding Source: Lee F. Del Grande Foundation

Pass through From: N/A

CFDA Number: N/A

Grant ID Number: N/A

Match Amount and Type: No in-kind match required

Indirect Cost Rate (applicable to the award):
N/A

Special Terms & Conditions: N/A

Sub-Awards and Contracts: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the adopted budget will be increased by \$35,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Use of the table format is optional:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
10956	484195	\$35,000.00
10956	710100	\$35,000.00

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners retroactively acknowledge the grant award in the amount of \$35,000 [No County Match Required], effective September 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015 from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation to the Second Judicial District Court for “Expansion of Mediation in Child Welfare Cases” and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget adjustments [All Commission Districts].

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be that the Board of County Commissioners retroactively acknowledge the grant award in the amount of \$35,000 [No County Match Required] effective September 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015 from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation to the Second Judicial District Court for “Expansion of Mediation in Child Welfare Cases” and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget adjustments [All Commission Districts].

cc. Jackie Bryant, District Court Administrator and Clerk of Court
Cathy Hill, Court Fiscal Services Administrator

John Slaughter, County Manager
Joey Orduna Hastings, Assistant County Manager
David Watts-Vial, Deputy District Attorney
Budget Agenda Coordinator
Comptroller-Risk Division
Grants Agenda Coordinator
Agenda Coordinator